



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

*UMLAUT UND BRECHUNG IM ALTSCHWEDISCHEN*  
 von Axel Kock, Lund, Mai 1916. Pp. V and 391.

This work has arisen in part out of a number of the author's articles that have been contributed to leading Swedish and German philological journals, in part out of the study of the investigations of other scholars. It is not only the result of long continued research, but it has been written and arranged with unusual care. All explanations of linguistic developments have been stated with scientific precision and illustrated with a few but ample examples. Thus the book does not consist of a large collection of facts but it fairly glows with the bright light of intellectual penetration into facts. The large index of 57 pages containing the individual words treated and the carefully prepared table of contents place the rich stores of the book at the disposal of the reader.

The book treats chiefly of mutation and breaking in Old Swedish, but it also treats the corresponding developments in the other Old Norse languages. This valuable comparative study has aroused in the reviewer the regret that this investigation was not extended to the other Germanic languages so that we might at last have a comprehensive study of mutation and breaking in Germanic. This comparative study of the Old Norse languages, however, has cleared away a number of older theories and misunderstandings, so that indirectly light has also been thrown upon developments in the other Germanic languages. Thus we can no longer regard as Pre-Germanic *i*-mutation of *e*, as in OHG *gifildi* (NHG *Gefilde*) from *Feld*, for we still find *e* before *i* in Pre-Norse runic inscriptions, as in the name *erilar* (corresponding to the Icelandic form "iari" *jarl*). Everywhere in the book the greatest pains have been taken to fix the exact or relative time of the linguistic developments. Likewise the geographical spread of the sounds has been treated very carefully.

The explanation of the phonetic forces involved in the vowel changes is unusually clear and convincing and sometimes the expression is very felicitous. For example, in explaining *a*-mutation of *i*, as in "heðan" *hence, from here* from Pre-Norse "hiðan" he calls the change of *i* to *e* a "partial assimilation" of the stem vowel to the vowel of the next syllable, thus distinguishing this development from "complete assimilation," as in the change of *i* in Old Norse "lifa" *live* to *a* in the modern dialectic form "lava" under the influence of the vowel *a* of the ending.

The comprehensive nature of the book is a desirable feature. The author has treated every phase of the subject so that it has become an invaluable book of reference. It is to be hoped that in the scientific labor of our time more will feel called to gather small contributions together and treat them comprehensively, as in this admirable work.

*Northwestern University.*

GEORGE O. CURME.